

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1-3, 5-8, and 12-28 remain in this application. Claims 4 and 9-11 have been canceled. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended. Claims 16-28 have been withdrawn.

Independent claims 1 and 8 were amended to incorporate the elements of dependent claims 4 and 11, respectively. Claim 8 was also amended to incorporate the elements of claim 9. Claims 5 and 12 were amended to change dependencies in view of canceled claims. Claim 15 adds an additional feature, as supported by FIGS. 4, 5, 7, and 9-12, and the specification at paragraph 33, and also as added to amended claims 1 and 8.

Claims 16-28 were withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fehrman et al., US Patent 6,193,163 (“Fehrman”).

With respect to amended independent claims 1, 8, and 15, the Examiner asserts that canceled claims 4 and 11, which recited electrical contacts spaced along the longitudinal axis of the interface module body, are anticipated by Fehrman based on element 18 in FIGS. 1-14. The leads 18 of Fehrman, however, are not *spaced along* the longitudinal axis of the body, but only intersect the longitudinal axis at one point. Applicant’s electrical contacts 94a-94f in FIGS. 4 and 5 demonstrate electrical contacts that are spaced along a longitudinal axis 96 (see also paragraph 33 of Applicant’s specification). Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to include electrical contacts spaced along the longitudinal axis of the interface module body.

Applicant further notes that amended claim 8 is not anticipated by Fehrman because Fehrman does not disclose a body having a rectangular cross-section, let alone having a rectangular cross-section that is other than substantially planar.

In order for a reference to anticipate a claimed invention, the reference must teach each and every element in the precise arrangement set forth in the claim. If the reference fails to teach even one of the claimed features, the reference does not and cannot anticipate the claimed invention. Based upon at least the structural deficiencies of the disclosure in Fehrman identified in the preceding remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Nor does the Fehrman reference render these amended claims obvious because, among other reasons, Fehrman does not teach or disclose all of the elements of the amended claims. *See* MPEP 2142.03. Further, Fehrman does not suggest the desirability of the claimed invention. *See* MPEP 2143.01(I).

Dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-7 depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1. Because of those dependencies, these claims contain all of the features of independent claim 1. Dependent claims 12-14 depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 8. Because of those dependencies, these claims contain all of the features of independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5-7, and 12-14 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Fehrman. Furthermore, such claims recite unique combinations of elements not disclosed or suggested by Fehrman.

Applicant also notes that, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Fehrman does not disclose: electrical contacts 94a-84f *around the periphery* of the body 92 (Applicant's claims 5 and 12; FIGS. 4 and 5); a head 114 (FIG. 7) at one end of the body, as opposed

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to the tabs 32, 34 of Fehrman, that are not at the end of the body (Applicant's claims 6 and 13); or a head that is substantially circular, substantially elliptical, and a shape having at least three substantially straight sides (Applicant's claims 7 and 14).

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the interface module claimed in the present application is not fairly taught or suggested by any of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in any reasonable combination suggested by the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, allowance of claims 1-3, 5-8, and 12-16, at an early date are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment or anticipates finally rejecting any claim of the present application, a telephone interview is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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